

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 03268 220555Z

12

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 INRE-00 /004 W

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O R 220516Z FEB 75 ZFF RUEHFO

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9459

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC/OASD/PA

USMISSION USUN NEW QORK

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3268

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM, IOP/FW AND IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER - FEBRUARY 22, 1975

1. FIGHTING CONTINUES ON THE LOWER MEKONG AS GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO WIDEN BRIDGEHEADS ON THE WEST BANK BELOW NEAK LUONG AND, AT THE SAME TIME, REINFORCE THEIR HOLD ON THE KEY TOWN OF NEAK LUONG ITSELF. THERE WERE MORTAR AND HOWITZER ATTACKS REPORTED ON THE TOWN OF NEAK LUONG AT 2400 HOURS ON 21 FEBRUARY. NO LINK-UP HAS YET BEEN MADE WITH AN ISOLATED FANK UNIT EAST OF NEAK LUONG BEHIND AN ENEMY ROAD CUT. AT SIERRA ONE AND TWO, FANK POSITIONS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG BELOW NEAK LUONG, THERE WERE MORE COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS. FURTHER REPORTS ARE AWAITED ON A COMMUNIST ATTACK ON 800 REFUGEE HOUSES NEAR KOMPONG CHHNANG. MANY OF THESE HOUSES WERE BURNED. THE HOUSES WERE PART OF A WORLD VISION REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT. AT MOUNG RUSSEI, A DISTRICT TOWN LOCATED BETWEEN BATTAMBANG

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 03268 220555Z

AND PURSAT IN A RICH RICE-GROWING AREA OF NORTHPWEST

CAMBODIA, LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN REPORTED BY FANK RELIEF COLUMNS MOVING TO RELIEVE FANK FORCES INSIDE THE TOWN. COMMUNIST FORCES TOOK THE TOWN SEVERAL DAYS AGO. SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL ALONG ROUTE ONE THE GOING IS ALSO SLOW FOR GOVERNMENT FORCES SEEKING TO DISLODGE ENTRENCHED COMMUNIST FORCES ALONG THIS VITAL HIGHWAY. IN THE CAPITAL SIXTEEN ROCKET ATTACKS WERE REPORTED BETWEEN 0850 HOURS ON FEBRUARY 21 AND 0555 HOURS ON 22 FEBRUARY. ONE OF THESE STRUCK ONE OF THE CITY'S LARGEST HOSPITALS, KILLING ONE PERSON AND WOUNDING FIVE OTHERS. SEVERAL LANDED IN THE AREA OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT, BUT NO DAMAGE IS REPORTED THERE. ONE C-47 GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT CRASHED ON TAKE-OFF ON FEBRUARY 21. ONE OF THE CREW WAS KILLED AND FOUR OF THE CREW AND ONE SECURITY GUARD WERE INJURED.

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